

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Page 3, amend the last full paragraph to read:

For strapping, it is advantageous if a movable clamping apparatus is disposed above the movable plate, ~~as described in claim 11.~~ Said movable clamping apparatus is lowerable onto the stack of sheet material so that sheet material deposited on the movable plate for strapping can be held reliably when being supplied to the strapping unit. Alternatively, sheet material can be supplied to the strapping unit by means of a gripper.